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Robert D. Jenkins

1875-1917

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Robert D. Jenks—

ROBERT DARRAH JENKS
1875-1917

A memorial and a tribute
from his friends

PHILADELPHIA
PRIVATELY PRINTED
1917

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THIS little volume has been compiled in memory of Robert Darrah Jenks by his friends who knew and loved him, not merely as a tribute to a life of rare usefulness and power, but in order that through a permanent record the inspiration of his life and work may be extended to others.

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"WINDHURST"

Home in childhood of Robert Darrah Jenks

ROBERT D. JENKS

By His Brother

Travelling to find a spot suitable for Doctor Jenks' health, Robert's parents had settled for the winter of 1874-75 at Enterprise on the St. Johns River in Florida, and it was here that Robert (named after his uncle Robert K. Darrah of Boston) was born on Monday, March 1, 1875. He was a frail little baby, and it was not until he was three or four months old that he began to gain. His parents, still searching for the mild climate that Doctor Jenks had found advisable, spent the winter following Robert's birth in Georgia and Florida. At eleven months he was desperately ill with pneumonia.

His second birthday was spent in Algiers. Here Robert, under the influence of his French nurse, learned the French tongue before his own. Here again he was very ill with pneumonia. The following year was spent in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Shortly after this his parents returned to the family home, "Windhurst," at Ogontz (then Shoemakertown) about ten miles north of Philadelphia. Here much of Rob's boyhood was passed. The estate at that time was quite large, about twenty-two acres, part woodland and the rest lawn, flower and vegetable gardens with many winding paths and driveways. Be-

fore he was many years older, he showed in many ways his fondness for trains, and he adorned his own bedroom with photographs of engines, many with detail drawing of their mechanism. He knew many of the engineers on the Reading Railway by name.

His earliest schooling, at about the age of six, was at Miss Heacock's at Chelten Hills, about two miles away, whither he went each morning on the train. "Jimmy," the flagman at the Chelten Hills crossing, soon became one of Rob's firmest friends, and for many years the most treasured possessions that Rob had were the discarded railroad flags (especially the red ones) which Jimmy from time to time bestowed on him.

As soon as we learned to ride on tricycles and bicycles, Rob elaborated a schedule of trains, which we were to "run" every day, the trees being the stations, with such important landmarks as the windmill, the swing, the edge of the woods, etc., as the important terminals. Rob was the superintendent of the road, and his enthusiasm made us carry on quite an accurate schedule of trains on our bicycles for many months.

When he was six and a half years old his father died.

Before Robert was ten years old he had had such frequently recurring attacks of bronchitis that his mother decided to spend a winter in Bermuda. This was most beneficial, and he finished his school and college work without any serious illness.

The winter of 1886 the family moved to Clinton Street, Philadelphia, first at 910, and then 920, which latter house remained his home for many years. During the winters he attended the Penn Charter School. The spring and fall and much of the summer were spent at "Windhurst." Together with his friend (and later his room-mate at Harvard) Ford Jennings, he laid out a tennis court, and many was the battle royal he had on that court. A relative of the family by marriage, Mr. Duncan Clark of Baltimore, although past middle life, yet with heart and understanding of a boy of Rob's age, came much into his life. Mr. Clark taught Rob about nature in the country, and later, when our mother gave us each a pony, it was Mr. Clark who taught Rob to ride, and there were tennis tournaments with Mr. Clark and Ford Jennings. The friendship with both lasted through his life.

Except for tennis and bicycling, Rob took but little interest in athletics. Later, long after leaving college, he took up golf but never with very great enthusiasm.

He graduated from the Penn Charter School with honors in 1893, and entered Harvard, living in Holyoke Hall. Here he took a rather broad course with many elective studies in Economics, leading to his degree of A. B. *cum laude* in 1897. While here he was under the influence of his uncle W. W. Goodwin, then Eliot professor of Greek, and at his house Rob had the opportunity of meeting and conversing with many of the brightest men of that time at Cambridge. Here, too, he made those

treasured friendships—Robert Barrett, Roland Dixon, Charlie Drew, Harry Foote, Sinclair Kennedy, Duncan Phillips, James Porter and others, without which life would never have been the same to him.

After a summer spent in travel in Europe, Rob decided to enter railroad life, and began his work in the Freight Department of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway, becoming a "billing clerk" at the Front and Noble Streets Station. Here he worked for about a year; then deciding to study law, he entered the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 1898, graduating in 1901. While in this school he was a member of the Sharswood Law Club. He passed his course with first, second and third year honors, and graduated *cum laude*. Later he became an editor of the American Law Register.

About the time of entering the Law School he was much distressed at the corrupt political conditions of the ward in which he lived in Philadelphia, and from then until the close of his life, he was a close student of city politics. Early in his career he encountered the opposition of the "gang" politicians in his efforts to improve the registration of voters in his district, and he had many times to show the true courage he possessed when attempting, while a "watcher" on Election Day, to prevent the voting of repeaters and those illegally registered. Once when endeavoring to ascertain if a certain named person lived at a given address on one of the worst streets of the City, he was threatened with

personal violence; and while protesting a voter in his own polling place he was once struck on the head and thrown from the booth. This time he was able to have his assailant arrested. Many times on Election Day his quiet but firm and courageous behavior kept order in a polling booth filled with excited negroes and workers of the lowest class.

His neighbors, Hazard Dickson, Esq., and Mr. Richard Gilpin, (both now deceased) were also pillars of strength. Gradually the election officers (usually colored) came to realize that Rob was always fair, and later they trusted him and gladly accepted the help he often gave on Election nights when he would almost always stay until late and help them count the votes and make up the rather complicated tabulations of the returns.

With his intimate knowledge of conditions as they were in the lower wards of the City, he willingly became a member of the Committee of Seventy and was still one of that active body at the time of his death.

After graduation from the Law School he began the practice of law in the office of John Douglass Brown, Esq., in the Drexel Building, Philadelphia; later forming a partnership with Mr. Brown and his friend, Henry Wolf Biklé, Esq., under the name of Brown, Biklé and Jenks.

When Mr. Biklé was called to the Pennsylvania Railroad, Robert decided to move nearer the Law Library and Courts, and accordingly took his office in the West End Trust Building, becoming associated, although never in partner-

ship, with Thomas Raeburn White, Esq. His attention soon was attracted by railroad rate cases, and he made a constantly increasing study of cases involving interstate commerce and railroad law.

On June 20, 1914, he married Maud M. Lowrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight M. Lowrey, of Philadelphia. Shortly after the wedding they left for Europe, and spent a very happy and interesting two months travelling through England, Germany, Switzerland and France. He and his wife rented an attractive little house at 1704 Rittenhouse Street, Philadelphia, where he lived until his death.

Since the winter of 1901 and 1902 when, after a warning breakdown, he was sent to spend the winter reluctantly in Egypt, he had endeavored to prevent a like enforced vacation; and by spending a month or six weeks in the mountains or camping in the West in summer and, when overtired, a day or two at the seashore in the winter, he had remained in very good health.

However, since the first of January he had had much responsibility in an important rate case, involving the interests of the City of Philadelphia, hearings of which were in New York City. Being unable to secure accommodations in that city, he had for several days been travelling to New York each morning and returning to his home late at night. At the close of the hearing on Tuesday, January 16th, he complained of feeling tired, and cancelled a dinner invitation with one of his Harvard friends in New York. Upon arriving home he suffered a

severe chill with much prostration and fever. Pneumonia developed. He grew rapidly worse. By Sunday he was delirious and he gradually sank into unconsciousness from which he never rallied. He died peacefully and without suffering Monday, January 22, 1917, at 11:00 P. M.

His time was always generously given to those in need. For several years he was actively interested in the Penn Normal and Agricultural School in South Carolina; he was also Counsel for the Visiting Nurse Society of Philadelphia; a member of the Committee of Seventy; chairman of the Council of the National Civil Service Reform League; one of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Reform Association of Pennsylvania (formerly secretary and later counsel) and a Director of the American Dredging Company.

He was a member of the University Club; of the Merion Cricket Club; of the Cosmos Club of Washington, D. C., and of the Harvard Clubs of New York and Philadelphia.

THE MEETING AT THE CITY CLUB

At the City Club of Philadelphia, on January 27, 1917, at 3 P. M. opportunity was given for expressions concerning Mr. Jenks and his work for the Club.

Mr. Thomas Raeburn White in taking the Chair said:

"The City Club and the City of Philadelphia suffered a severe loss in the death on January 22nd of Robert D. Jenks. Mr. Jenks was not only a charter member of the City Club, he was one of the first five who originally conceived the idea of a City Club for Philadelphia. My acquaintance with him has extended over a period of twenty years and I know his unselfish interest in civic work. He gave freely of his time and strength, almost too freely I fear, even after in later years his practice had so increased that he had but little time for outside interests. He was especially interested in civil service reform, and gave much attention to that subject both in the state and in the nation at large, where his counsel and advice were highly valued.

"He was one of the original members of the Committee of Seventy and frequently served on its important committees. He was not only willing to do conspicuous service but also modest and even distasteful work which needs to be done but which frequently goes undone because no one is found willing to attend to it. His

residence for many years was in the Seventh Ward, in an election district dominated by machine votes. With one or two associates he did so much faithful, persistent work, that he was able to convince the voters, many of whom were of an ignorant and degraded class, that they ought to vote in accordance with their consciences, and at times this little group was actually able to carry this district for reform tickets, largely through Mr. Jenks' personal work.

"I remember while discussing with him upon one occasion what influence we felt had been most impressed upon us during our college lives, he said he thought that which had been most impressed upon him was the duty and need for service. This impression was not due more to the teaching he had received than to the willingness on his part to receive it. Perhaps his most prominent characteristic was his willingness and even eagerness to serve where he saw that service was needed. He had already attained wide recognition at the bar for his careful work in his chosen field, and there is no question that he had ahead of him a career of unusual promise.

"Of his personal qualities it is hard for me to speak. He was my friend—such a friend as we seldom have as we go through this life. We were closely associated in professional work and I saw him daily for many years. His ideals and instincts were all of the highest and he was incapable of acting other than in accordance with those ideals. He was loyal to his friends and inspired love and loyalty in return. He was an

extraordinary combination of sweetness and strength. It was a delight to know him in his family circle and it is there I like best to remember him.

"I cannot think of his life as ended; I daily look up from my desk expecting to see him in the door-way. His life is not ended even here for his memory will live among those who knew and loved him for many years to come."

MR. ALBERT E. TURNER SAID:

"We have had the first break in the ranks of the original five members of the City Club. This Club, now numbering fourteen hundred, was formed by three men who are here to-day. At their first meeting they concluded to invite two others who were men of high civic ideals and who would stand before the people for all they hoped the City Club would mean to the community. These three men immediately concluded that Robert D. Jenks should be one of the two. His quiet earnestness, the great depth of his sincerity and his extreme thoroughness then made an impression upon all who knew him. Twelve years have elapsed since that time. In that period Robert D. Jenks grew strongly as a man of force. Many of us looked forward to his being a still more commanding figure in the life of the City and the State.

"In every community a time arises when the people seek out the man who actually 'knows,' the man of sterling integrity, the man who can accomplish things. Such occasions arose here

and Robert D. Jenks, a man of modesty, was sought out by those who felt the need of leadership. No man can estimate the value of the work he has done. He holds a place in our hearts that will endure throughout our lives. As we sit here to-day, memories of his patient, kindly, earnest and cheerful life, move us. He has helped to shape our own lives, and in his death we know that he still further contributes to them. It seems trite to say 'He being dead, yet speaketh'—yet, in our own souls we know this to be true. We still feel the force of his life. Many times we shall think definitely of this beloved man, beloved as a friend, admired as a citizen, always true, always faithful, always patient, always working hard for a definite end, apparently never discouraged, and all in all, the kind of man those with ideals and aspirations like to 'tie to.' This one phrase clings to my own mind. I rejoice that life afforded me the opportunity to 'tie to' Robert D. Jenks, and regret that it did not give me closer contact, hence I envy those men who had daily association with him. He knew the secret 'No man liveth to himself,' and so having lived out the impulse of that secret he shall abide with us. He has been called hence. It seems to all of us at a time when he was too young, and when we all expected to see his life bear greater fruit, but our finite minds cannot comprehend the manner in which great work goes on. Nevertheless, we can say to-day to ourselves with solemn assurance that it will come, that his life shall bear the full fruit. The sowing of the seed

was done so thoroughly by him, and the soil was so well cultivated, that the full richness of the fruit that the Almighty meant Robert D. Jenks should bring into this world, shall come as it was foreordained it should."

Mr. Fullerton L. Waldo said:

"When Robert D. Jenks went to heaven he had only a little way to go. The words of Rudyard Kipling written in memory of Wolcott Balestier were true for him:

'Scarce had he need to cast his pride or slough
the dross of earth:
E'en as he trod that day to God so walked
he from his birth
In simpleness and gentleness and honor and
clean mirth.'

"In a rare degree be reconciled ideals with facts and theory with practice. Andrew Preston Peabody said of Benjamin Peirce, the great mathematician, that he 'saw God through his mathematics.' Even so Robert D. Jenks dwelt in communion with the Invisible, and his face shone though he knew it not, for he was a friend of all mankind and a friend of God. He was no mere dreamer, no vague enthusiast. Toward the ideal end in view he knew the way to take. We have lost a great leader. But, we have lost him only in a sense. I feel as though he were here with us now in this room, listening with a smile of deprecation to the words of eulogy and elegy in this our meeting which is so small a

thing beside the greatness of the man he was. As time goes on and we gain a truer perspective, we shall realize that greatness and understand the worth of one who so spent his days in service that, as I have said, when the call came to him and found him at his work, he had but a little way to go."

Mr. J. Henry Scattergood said:

"I suppose I have known Robert Jenks as long as any of his many friends who are here to-day. We were classmates at Harvard, and I can say that in his college days he commanded the same respect that has been the case ever since. He was one of the really solid men of the class, always supporting the highest and most public spirited phases of college life, and was highly valued. Harvard meant a great deal to him, and he was ever loyal to its interests, being particularly faithful in attendance at reunions of the class and other gatherings.

"Mention has been made here of his extraordinary activity in Civil Service Reform, with which perhaps we especially associated him, as well as of other lines of work for the improvement of the conduct of public affairs; but I believe no one as yet has mentioned his great interest in education. This was one of the deep and fundamental currents of his life, and expressed itself not only in all that concerned his own university, Harvard, but in all broad lines of educational effort. He came by this broad outlook in education naturally, for it was his

mother's aunt, Miss Towne, who early in the Civil War founded the Penn School in South Carolina and labored there for many years for the education of the negroes of St. Helena's Island, and all the family have been deeply interested in it ever since, Robert being one of the Board ever since his college days.

"Although his high character has been alluded to by all who have spoken, I feel that I must add my testimony, too, in appreciation of what his life has meant to me. I have known very few men who have impressed me as being so completely ruled by a sense of duty as was Robert Jenks. He was always conscientious and strove to make his life count where he felt he was needed. He was very thorough and strong of character and yet he was gentle and tender-spirited and kind.

"He will be sadly missed in the community, and many of us feel the deep personal loss that has come upon us in losing such a friend."

Mr. Franklin S. Edmonds said:

"I wish to add my tribute to the memory of Robert D. Jenks. I did not know him intimately prior to the City Party Campaign in the summer of 1905, but in the twelve years which have since elapsed, we had many opportunities to see one another and to understand the work which each was trying to do, and my feeling of respect for him soon ripened into the warmest regard and affection.

"I think that he had a peculiar charm in his personality; a manner so cheery and hearty and an attitude toward others so uniformly gentle and courteous. I have been with him in political battles where we have been fighting as hard as we knew how to do against the other side, and yet I never heard Bob Jenks say an unkind thing or make an uncharitable remark of anyone. In the Seventh Ward, which was then his residence, and where he felt called upon to engage in division work, he found organized politics presented in perhaps its most difficult and vicious form; and yet I do not recall a single time in his arduous battles for the right where he made the slightest personal criticism against a single soul.

"Then, he had a wonderfully cheery optimism that is one of the strongest assets of a Civic Reformer. A few years ago, we were obliged to go to Washington on a matter that related to the Federal Civil Service and we went several times before we could find anyone to listen to us, and a great many more times before we found anyone who would redress the wrong. I remember once on our way back from Washington, I was fretting and fuming because it seemed to me to be such a wicked thing that the ones who had the real responsibility in their hands would not take time to inquire into the case, and recall that while I was storming, Jenks was smiling and presently he remarked to me: 'After all it is going to come out right in the end, if we keep on trying. It will get settled, but nothing is settled until it is settled right.'

"I think that his was a remarkably fine point of view and it was characteristic of that rich personality that made him a friend of every man that he knew. I heartily concur in what has been said by all of those who have spoken before. His life was a real asset to Philadelphia, and we are all the poorer because he has gone before."

Dr. William Draper Lewis said:

"I knew Robert Jenks for twenty years. He always impressed me as a man who had, as fully as anyone I have ever met, two things: He was a clean man; not an unclean or degrading thought could live in the atmosphere of his presence. And, also, he was, as has been said here, a man who unconsciously gave you the impression, which was a correct impression, that the main-spring of his life was usefulness and service and helpfulness. I have been wondering, as I sat here, as to how many of us it will truthfully be said, when we pass away, what can be said of him—that throughout his busy, active life, he hurt no man; he pulled no man down; he put no stumbling block in anyone's way. The number of those whom he helped directly, and the number of those he helped indirectly, as he helped me by his example, are more than even we now realize; and is it not true that there is no better testimony to his character and life's work than the fact that we who knew Robert Jenks can say of him, from our hearts, the kind of things which have been said this afternoon."

Mr. Clarence L. Harper said:

"Robert D. Jenks was a man whom to know was a privilege, and those who were among his intimate friends were fortunate indeed. For more than ten years it has been my valued privilege to have closely associated with him in a number of the activities of his busy life. He was the soul of sincerity—a valued counsellor, and one whose leadership and opinion it was always safe to follow. He gave of himself freely and his quiet manner compelled those of us who were perhaps more reluctant, to strive to follow him in his high ideals of service. I am quite sure that he knew his friends loved, honored and respected him, but he was so modest withal that one felt he very closely approximated the actual living of the Golden Rule; and to have his friendship was a real joy. Therefore, loving much it is not singular that we, his friends, are deeply grieved at this parting with him—and the memory of our close and delightful association with this high minded gentleman will ever be a prized possession."

Mr. Cyrus D. Foss said:

"In 1905 Philadelphia was in the midst of a political upheaval growing out of an attempted grant of a great public franchise in the betrayal of the city's best interests. Moral indignation ran high. In the white heat of civic patriotism of that summer the City Club was born.

"Robert D. Jenks was one of its first five members. When he and one other were added to the original group of three the question was asked them, which was put to each who was invited to join the carefully selected group, 'Will you go the limit for the City?' Jenks took that pledge, and his life testifies how well he kept it.

"For years he was a militant defender of political decency in a hard polling place in a hard ward. His name became a terror to evil doers on election day. He grew into leadership in movements for administrative and political betterment in the City, State and Nation.

"My intimate acquaintance with him was largely in connection with his activities on behalf of the Merit System in the Civil Service. From his earliest manhood he devoted his time, his means and his fine abilities, without stint, to this movement. To his well ordered mind it was an intolerable thing that public office should be the foot ball of spoils mongers, and he labored intelligently and persistently to introduce efficiency principles into the administration of government. From 1901 to 1907 he was the Secretary, and from 1907 to 1909, the Counsel, of the Civil Service Reform Association of Pennsylvania. During this period, and while still a very young man, he was honored with membership in the Council of the National Civil Service Reform League, and served as its Chairman for some years and until compelled to limit these activities because of the pressure of other duties.

"For years his wisdom in counsel and firmness in advocacy of important principles made him

the real leader in the Civil Service movement in Pennsylvania, and he was rapidly gaining a similar position in the National movement.

"We saw in him a remarkable combination of modesty and gentleness of manner and firmness of character. To his essential convictions he gave unyielding adherence. In his advocacy of great principles of government that seemed to him fundamental for the public welfare, he never admitted defeat. Philadelphia has lost a high-minded, useful citizen.

"I had so constantly relied upon Jenks for counsel in the activities in which we were associated, that his loss brought a feeling of consternation to me. We shall miss him sadly. We shall sorrow for him as for a dear friend, gone on before, lost to our sight for a while."

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

A LETTER FROM HIS CLASSMATES

Robert Darrah Jenks was born at Enterprise, Florida, on March 1, 1875, the son of William Furness and Helen Carnan (Towne) Jenks. He died of pneumonia, after a brief illness, on January 22, 1917, at his home in Philadelphia. He prepared for college at the Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, entered Harvard in the fall of 1893, and graduated in due course with the class of '97. His interest in railroad transportation led him to serve for a year in the freight department of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway. Then taking up the study of law, he graduated from the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1901. He married, June 20, 1914, Maud Lowrey of Philadelphia.

Throughout the years we knew him, his mind was constantly occupied with thought of the public welfare. Wise to recognize the essential values and defects of partisanship, and willing to be allied to a party, and at the same time judicial enough to see virtue in the opposed partisanship of another, he combined the enthusiasm, moderation and ability for work necessary for a successful reformer. He was as zealous in the practical work of winning a case in Philadelphia to establish the status of letter carriers, as he was in the more far-reaching task of drafting a model civil service law which might become the standard for uniformity in the several States.

His legal career naturally tended to transportation problems. The child's interest in railroads grew to knowledge, both practical and theoretical, of many intricate aspects of transportation. At his death he was at work on one of many cases he had supported before the

Interstate Commerce Commission. The attitude in which he approached the cases entrusted to him was one of scrupulous fairness to both the railroads and the shippers; for to him the fundamental points at issue were far more important than the commercial interests immediately involved. He made himself an expert in railroad rates and became one of the foremost authorities in his chosen field. He had already won professional standing of a high order, with promise of wide public recognition of his abilities.

He gave his services to the public by holding such positions as: Trustee of the Penn School in South Carolina, 1901-1911; Member of the Philadelphia Committee of Seventy; Secretary of the Pennsylvania Civil Service Reform Association; and from 1912-1915, Chairman of the Council of the National Civil Service Reform League.

But to his friends he was more than the public-spirited citizen, more than the lawyer whose professional ideals were untainted by commercialism. To us he was also the true and loyal comrade whom we loved. His unpretentious modesty did not prevent an increasing appreciation of his sturdy qualities. He bound his friends to him with unforgettable ties by his cheerful courage and his loyalty to obligation. The ideals which moved him to public service commanded no less his private life, making him a devoted husband, son and brother.

This notice of Robert Jenks is sent to his friends by five of his classmates, in token of their affection for him.

CHARLES D. DREW HENRY WILDER FOOTE
ROLAND B. DIXON SINCLAIR KENNEDY
JAMES DUNCAN PHILLIPS

In response to a request for his "history" for a class record Robert D. Jenks sent the following account to the secretary of his class about 1913.

"After leaving college I entered the employ of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company as a freight clerk.

There I discovered that although I was the proud possessor of a Harvard A.B., *cum laude*, I was, nevertheless, to be classified among the most ignorant of men, because, forsooth, I hadn't the slightest idea whether watermelons took first or fourth class rates, and because I didn't know, for example, that all P. & R., N. Y. C. & H. R. freight was to be routed via Newberry Junction. So practically as an office boy, I started in to learn the railroad business. Thanks to the interest of my immediate superintendent I was given a chance to serve in some twenty different positions in about nine months, so that I acquired in a relatively short time a knowledge of the details of the railroad business which is now proving of great value to me in my legal work.

"In June, 1898, I determined that railroad work, at least in the freight department, was not likely to be the kind of life I desired, and I therefore resigned from the Reading and entered the University of Pennsylvania Law School, from which I received a degree in 1901. Shortly thereafter I was admitted to the bar. For four years I practised alone. I then entered the firm of Brown, Biklé and Jenks, which was dissolved about two years later, owing to the fact that Biklé was taken into the legal department of the Pennsylvania Railroad. I am now practising alone, but with very close association with another attorney and intimate friend, T. R. White, whose offices I share. I am engaged in general civil practice, giving, however, particular attention to cases involving interstate commerce and railroad law. In fact, I hope later to specialize in these two subjects, which are of absorbing interest, not only from the point of view of the private litigant, but also because they involve such broad questions of national importance.

"For some years after leaving college I took a very active part in the independent political movement in the city of Philadelphia, which has at last met with pronounced success. Two aspects of the same general work have,

however, in recent years, taken all of the small amount of time I could spare from my own professional work, to wit, the drafting of new legislation relating to matters of public moment and the advancement of the cause of civil service reform. In furtherance of this work, I have served as a member of the "Committee of Seventy" which has accomplished lasting results in securing the enactment of modern and practical legislation relating to elections, etc., and as counsel for the State Civil Service Reform Association. I have also served for some years as a member of the executive committee of the National Civil Service Reform League.

"In connection with my professional duties I have served as a director of the American Dredging Company and the Clarmont Coal and Mining Company.

"My recent summer vacations have been spent in camping trips in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, and in sundry towns throughout the United States, particularly in the West. I have been very fortunate in being able to get back to many of our annual class reunions, and I urge every man in the class to acquire the habit of attending these. I find the resulting pleasure and stimulus an ample compensation for a six hundred mile trip."

"It is only a few moments since I left the meeting at the City Club in memory of Mr. Jenks. You will, of course, hear of it in some formal way, but I doubt if any minute or resolution will convey to you the affection and admiration that was expressed for Mr. Jenks by men who had worked with and known him—some of them since they were in college together. One said that he was the brains and inspiration of the Civil Service Reform movement; several, in fact, all spoke of his devotion to whatever cause he took up, but I liked particularly a phrase that Mr. White used when he described Mr. Jenks as 'a man of unremitting service, who *knew*.'

"My thought in beginning this note was to tell you something about this meeting that might not otherwise reach you. I am not doing this. I can only tell you that I have never heard more earnest and affectionate tributes paid to any man than those that were paid to Mr. Jenks to-day. In your sorrow, you must, because you should, be proud and glad to have stood by the side of such a man as I have heard described to-day."

"May I be permitted to send you a few lines to testify to my deep appreciation of your husband's character and the fine example of his life cut off in its prime but not before he had proved his worth as an able lawyer and a sterling citizen. There are few men whose inherent honesty can be felt and trusted without reserve and in the open book of whose life one can see only a steady round of duties quietly yet nobly done but he was one of them.

"In times like these when the commercial spirit is uppermost, the value of such a life is very great, it purifies the courts, it maintains political ideals, it establishes one's

faith in our spiritual progress when one might otherwise despair. I wish I had known your husband better for my own good but by his works and in his modest and straightforward self I felt his true worth and humbly offer my tribute to his memory and my sense of the loss to you irreparable and to his friends real and lasting."

"I cannot find words to express my grief at the loss of my dear friend. Life will be narrowed for me, my strength in many lines of activity will be lessened, now that I can no longer turn to him with confidence for counsel and help.

"Among the many fine characters I have come to know well through their civic activities, I have known no better citizen or finer patriot than he. Quiet, modest and self-effacing, yet with high intelligence, wisdom and unfaltering firmness, he impressed his character on great public movements and on those associated with him in furthering them, in a marvellous way.

"For fifteen years he has been the outstanding leader of the Civil Service Reform movement in this State, and was rapidly approaching the same position in the Nation. We shall grievously miss him.

"I am fortunate to have had as a friend so white a soul. He has been a sheet anchor for my convictions. It is hard that we must lose him."

"Not knowing that Mr. Jenks was ill, I was deeply shocked and grieved to learn last evening of his untimely death.

"It is, of course, needless to tell you either of his intellectual ability, or of the nobility of his character. There may, however, be some comfort in the knowledge that not only had his great ability commanded the respect of railroad attorneys, who were so often his opponents, but that, by the fairness and fineness of his character, he had won their sincere regard and affection.

"The lawyer's oath was to him a fixed rule of daily conduct. And he proved by word and deed that it is possible to combine all the zeal and vigor of an advocate with scrupulous fairness toward the other side. As a result, he had the rare distinction of counting his constant opponents among his staunchest admirers and friends."

"I was greatly shocked and grieved to hear of Mr. Jenks' death, and feel that I ought to tell you how very serious a loss it is, in my judgment, to the cause of good government and pure politics and to the advancement of all that is wholesome and of good repute in the life of our Country. He was a man of a type which we especially and sorely need, and which, as it seems to me, has become less common among us as I have grown from youth to old age; that he should have been called away in the prime of life, and with so many years of usefulness apparently opening out before him, demands of those who knew him unfaltering trust in the eternal wisdom and beneficence of Divine Providence."

"It is not length of life which counts but what is made of life year by year.

"Robert made so much of each year, so that his life, short as it was, has left a record of helpfulness which is not reached by many of twice his age.

"I look back upon every time that I had the pleasure of having him in our home with such gratification. He entered into whatever was on foot with such spirit and appreciation and was so helpful.

"I know what a comfort it must be to you in your sorrow and loneliness to know how universally he was honored and trusted and beloved.

"We must believe that such spirits when taken from us so early must be needed for finer service of some kind in the world beyond our view."

"When I recall the many times I have come with Bob, to dine at your home, the intimate and friendly conversations there, the cordial welcome both you and he gave to my wife when she joined our circle, the playful advice he asked of her while he was unmarried—yes all these incidents and many more, I cannot think of him as gone from us. I find it easier to think that the interval between our meetings has only become a little greater.

"Although not one of his classmates or most intimate friends I had grown in these years of occasional visits to Philadelphia, very fond of him.

"He was one of the finest and rarest natures in my entire acquaintance and I prized highly his friendship. I knew no one whose ideals of good citizenship and whose usefulness to his day and generation were higher. His enthusiasm and his personal, self-sacrificing work for good government, his quiet belief in its final victory, his confidence that never faltered because his well-balanced mind led him never to expect the impossible, these stood out as fixtures in his thought and were an example to me in many a time of stress. The soundness of his judgment I rated very high. You would be surprised to know how many and what delicate personal matters I had in trivial conversation put before him for his sympathetic comment.

"I could write much more but it would only repeat what you know so well, that your great loss is a personal loss also to many, many of us, his friends.

"You have great reason to be proud of him. He had proved himself a useful son of Harvard, true to her highest teachings of personal service."

HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE

HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE

LAW ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

The following minute was adopted:

Robert Darrah Jenks was born March 1, 1875 and died January 22, 1917. He was admitted to the Bar in 1901. Mr. Jenks received his preliminary education at the Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, and received his A.B. degree from Harvard University in 1897, graduating *cum laude*. For a short time he was in the Freight Department of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company, but entered the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 1898, receiving his degree of LL.B. in 1901. Shortly thereafter he was admitted to the bar and opened an office in Philadelphia. For some years Mr. Jenks engaged in general civil practice but of late years has given particular attention to cases involving interstate commerce and railroad law. In a statement given some years ago for his Class History at Harvard, he said, "I hope later to specialize in these subjects which are of absorbing interest not only from the point of view of the private litigants but also because they involve such broad questions of national importance." He had fully realized this hope and had already been recognized as one of the leaders in this field of work. He was fully occupied with professional matters of this kind, which called him constantly into the courts of Pennsylvania and adjoining states, and before the Public Service Commissions of various states and the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington.

As a lawyer he was careful and painstaking in his work, and had a very wide and thorough knowledge of railroad matters, which made him especially valuable as an advisor

on subjects connected with his specialty. He was able to see both sides of every question and was always fair in his statement of his opponent's position. Shortly after his death a group of railroad attorneys, against whom he had conducted numerous cases, adopted a resolution which shows the opinion held of him by his opponents, which is, after all, the best test of a lawyer's standards. The resolution was as follows:

> "RESOLVED that the Conference of Trunk Line Counsel has learned with deep regret of the untimely death of Mr. Robert D. Jenks of the Philadelphia Bar, with whom its members have been engaged in many varied matters and litigations, and that the conference wishes to express its appreciation of the ability, high standards of professional conduct and courtesy always displayed by Mr. Jenks, and its sympathy with his bereaved family."

Mr. Jenks was a Unitarian and a Republican in National politics, and was always very active in the promotion of causes affecting the welfare of his home City.

REMARKS OF COUNSEL AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NEW YORK, JANUARY 24, 1917

Met pursuant to adjournment at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Parties as before:

Examiner LaRoe: Are you ready to proceed, Mr. Cohen?

Mr. Cohen: Mr. Examiner, before proceeding with the regular order of business, my attention was called yesterday to an event out of the regular routine of our business. The news was conveyed to me yesterday that Mr. Jenks died day before yesterday, and is to be buried this morn-

ing. I had expected this morning to bring the situation to the attention of General Wickersham, who, of course, is my senior, and to request that he make formal reference to it this morning.

It is a matter of which we should take notice that, in the midst of the tense yet good-humored conduct of the trial of this proceeding, one of the participants has been taken away. As a member of the Bar, I feel very deeply that we should not take this event quite as a matter of course and pass it by without comment. I never met Mr. Jenks before he appeared in this proceeding, but his manner was that of a courteous, gentlemanly member of the Bar; he showed that he had carefully prepared his case, and asked his questions on behalf of his client with intelligence and with clarity. I should like, on behalf of the State of New York and my other clients, to take this opportunity, at the hour of his funeral, to pay my deep respect to his memory, and to record our sense of loss in having one of our associates taken from us.

Examiner LaRoe: I can only add to what Mr. Cohen has said, that it has been my pleasure to know Mr. Jenks for two or three years, and I can truly say that there never appeared before me in any hearing a gentleman who was more courteous and considerate to every one, including his opponents, than Mr. Jenks. I feel that the Commission has lost one whom it can hardly afford to lose.

Mr. Reynolds: On behalf of the railroads, I would like to say that I have met Mr. Jenks on the other side of these cases, I suppose, fifteen or twenty times; and, without reservation, I can say that the railroads had no adversary whom they respected more than Mr. Jenks. I never knew him to neglect the slightest point for his client. I never knew him to do an unfair thing to his adversary. He always appeared to have in mind, in the trial of every one of these important cases, which affect not only his client and his adversary, but the public, the great, broad public interest; and he always tried a case with that

apparently in view. I give way to no one in my admiration and respect for Mr. Jenks, and my deep regret for his taking away.

Mr. McCarter: Mr. Examiner, may I be permitted to say just a word on behalf of the petitioners? Personally, Mr. Jenks was an entire stranger to me until I came here; but we sat close together, and before he opened his lips in questions I had formed a rather unusual attachment for him because of his congenial and pleasant manners.

I was impressed at once, when he made some inquiries of the witnesses, that he knew what he was about, and was at home, and did not pursue the practice that most of us are guilty of, of asking too much.

I was intensely shocked, of course, when I heard of his death, and it only serves to remind us all that in life we are also close to death.

Mr. Cohen: I am sure that Mr. Wickersham, if he were here, would like to place his expressions upon the record, and I ask, respectfully, that a place be reserved in the record for his expression.

Mr. Daish: Speaking, if I may, for the interveners whom I have the honor to represent at this hearing, and also speaking for the State of Maryland and the city of Baltimore, I desire to reiterate the esteem and respect in which Mr. Jenks was held by those interests.

New York, January 25, 1917

Met pursuant to adjournment at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

Present: Parties as before.

Mr. Wickersham: Mr. Examiner, before the proceedings are begun, I should like to add my tribute to that of my associates and the gentlemen on the other side, to Mr. Jenks, who was with us a few days ago, and who was taken from us in such an untimely way, by death.

I never had the pleasure of knowing him before we came here, but I was impressed, as we all were, at the

acuteness of his intellect, the courtesy of his character, and the high standard of professional ideals that he exemplified in his personality, and in common with all of us, I felt a deep shock at the news of his untimely death, and I am glad of an opportunity to record the impressions that he made upon me and the deep sympathy which I feel, in common with others, for those who have suffered by his death.

LETTER FROM INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSIONER MEYER

"I first came in contact with Mr. Jenks at a hearing five or six years ago in which he represented one of the parties. This hearing was somewhat extensive, and his participation in it sufficiently active to enable me to become somewhat acquainted with him. The distinctly favorable impression which that first hearing left upon my mind became more clearly defined and intensified in the course of succeeding hearings and numerous arguments before the Commission. Mr. Jenks was possessed of unusual ability in presenting a case. His outline of the issues was always skilful and comprehensive, showing that full knowledge which comes from thorough preparation. He was scrupulously conscientious in stating a case with perfect fairness to his adversary. His manner of presentation was uniformly pleasing, and neither argument nor questioning by opposing counsel could affect his composure. He was always the very embodiment of courtesy in his dealing with other counsel and in his attitude toward the Commission. All these splendid traits and characteristics won my admiration for him to such an extent that I had suggested to my colleagues the desirability of offering Mr. Jenks a position with the Commission when a proper vacancy might occur or when a new position requiring Mr. Jenks' type of ability might be created. This suggestion was met with approval by

every member of the Commission, and I am confident that each of my colleagues would gladly confirm what I have said here about him."

LETTER FROM HENRY WOLF BIKLÉ, ESQ.

"I should like to refer in the briefest manner to the position which Rob had already won in his practice before the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania. His well-recognized thoroughness and efficiency in these fields of practice had attracted widespread attention, and had brought him recognition from distant points, and the confidence reposed in him is well manifested by the important part which he was taking at the time he became ill in the notable case which is now being heard in New York City. I know that he was held in the highest regard by the members of both the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Public Service Commission of Pennsylvania, and it is a significant tribute to his fine personality that there is a universal expression of regret for his death on the part of all counsel for the railroads who came into contact with him, in spite of the fact that the nature of his practice brought him in constant opposition to the interests which they represent. The reason is not far to seek: his uniform courtesy and absolute fairness and honesty won for him the highest regard of all who knew him.

"His achievements in this field of his work were creditable in the highest degree, and had he been permitted to live I am sure they would have continued to furnish testimony to his great ability."

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS—CIVIC, PHILANTHROPIC AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

COMMITTEE OF SEVENTY

Robert D. Jenks was appointed one of the original members of the Committee of Seventy at the meeting held in the Bourse Building in November, 1904. He was always a loyal and devoted adherent of the cause of good government and gave freely of his time and strength. He served as a member of the committees appointed to supervise the work of registration under the new Personal Registration Statute and was also a member of an important committee appointed to present the views of the Committee of Seventy on election laws to the Election Commission appointed by Governor Stuart. He was especially interested in civil service reform and for many years was secretary of the Civil Service Reform Association of Pennsylvania; he was afterwards its counsel and a member of its executive and other committees. He was at the time of his death a member of the Council of the National Civil Service Reform Association, with headquarters in New York, and was Chairman of the Committee on Congressional and Executive Action.

Mr. Jenks' influence and activity extended also to improving civic conditions in his immediate neighborhood. The election district in which he lived as a young man was one in which the vote was almost wholly controlled by machine politicians. He labored unceasingly to convince the voters that their ballots should be cast according to their consciences and with a few associates he so improved conditions that he was frequently able to carry his district for reform tickets.

Mr. Jenks was a man of the highest character and with an unswerving devotion to duty. His judgment was sound and his influence was always thrown on the right side of every question. His death has left a gap in the ranks of those fighting for good government in Philadelphia which will not soon be filled.

The officers and members of the Executive Board of the Committee of Seventy desire to record their sincere grief at his untimely death and their feeling of personal loss, and direct that this minute be engrossed and sent to his family.

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE REFORM LEAGUE

The living representative of this record brought to the organized forces of civil service reform energy and enthusiasm combined with tact, discernment, and sound judgment which won for him not only the loyal support of all his associates, but also the respect and confidence of public officials with whom he had relations.

How much Robert Jenks contributed to the permanent record of civil service reform only those who were in close touch with him—as members of the Council of the League and the Pennsylvania Association have been—can fully appreciate.

The Council also records that his personal qualities bound his friends to him because of his high character and sense of loyalty and obligation, combined with charm of manner. It is a personal loss to those who realize what he was and what he did for the National Civil Service Reform League.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

The members of the Executive Committee of the Civil Service Reform Association of Pennsylvania have learned with deep sorrow of the death of our valued associate and dear friend, Robert D. Jenks.

He served as Secretary of this Association from 1901 to 1907, as counsel from 1907 to 1909, and as a member of this Committee from 1907 until his death. During these sixteen years, and in an increasing degree, he was recognized as the central figure, the trusted leader, of the Civil Service movement in Pennsylvania. He personally drafted the Civil Service laws now on the statute books applying to cities of the first and second classes in this State, and was a potent factor in the movement for their passage.

Of high intellectual and legal attainments, he was the wisest counsellor in the affairs of the Association. Gentle, modest and self-effacing in manner, he was equally marked by a firmness in his essential convictions and an unyielding determination that made him a pillar of strength in this and other civic movements to which he gave his adherence.

As a very young man he was honored with membership in the Council of the National Civil Service Reform League; served later as its chairman, and at the time of his death, was chairman of its most important committee, having charge of its relations with the National government.

Philadelphia has had few citizens so useful and so high-minded as this man, taken from us now at the very height of his power for good. We shall miss him sadly in our councils. We shall grieve for him as a dear friend.

PENN NORMAL INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

The Board of Trustees of Penn School have heard with deep regret of the death of Robert Darrah Jenks of Philadelphia. The members of the Board recall with gratitude his services to Penn School from 1901 when, he visited St. Helena Island taking counsel in her last illness with his kinswoman, Miss Laura Towne, concerning the maintenance of the noble work which she had initiated and

carried on for nearly forty years. Mr. Jenks at that time drew up the papers incorporating the school and became a member of the first Board of Trustees, being Chairman of the Executive Committee from 1901 to 1906. Though still a young man he was a wise counsellor in the administration of the school, and though the pressure of other affairs caused him to withdraw in 1911 from active service on this Board, he was always a constant friend and supporter of Penn school. The Board gratefully recalls these services. They were characteristic of the spirit which animated Mr. Jenks throughout his life. He was high-minded and devoted, faithful and sagacious in the execution of duties devolving upon him, generous in giving his time and his thought to high and noble causes. His death is a loss not only to those who knew him and to Penn School, but to the community in which he stood for so admirable a type of American citizen.

VISITING NURSE SOCIETY

The Board of Managers of the Visiting Nurse Society has heard with deep regret of the death of Robert D. Jenks, for many years its counsellor who gave his time and his services freely to the Society wherever called upon to do so. Removed from the scene of his labor in the prime of life, his death will be felt, not only by our own Society to whom he was a most faithful friend and adviser, but also by the large circle to which he had endeared himself by his spirit of high endeavor and by his devotion to public interests. He carried into practice the teachings which the example of his mother had impressed upon him. With her we mourn the untimely death of a son of whom she was justly proud. Our hearts go out also in deep sympathy to his wife who identified herself so lovingly with her husband's labors and who as our associate in this Board gave such valuable support to his efforts.

To both mother and wife the Board extends expression of heartfelt sympathy in their grief, together with the earnest prayer that they may have the strength to bear their sorrow in resignation to a Higher Will.

AMERICAN DREDGING COMPANY

By the death of Robert Darrah Jenks on January 22, 1917, the American Dredging Company lost a friend who has been associated with the Company as a Director since February, 1909. He was the youngest and one of the most active Directors. His place was seldom vacant at the Meetings of the Board, the conscientious execution of all demands upon him being the rule of his life. The discharge of his official duties was based upon sterling honesty, energetic performance and successful consummation of the purpose involved. He was loyal in his friendship, considerate of the feelings of others, yet firm in his convictions of right. These qualities of heart and mind made him most highly esteemed as a friend and respected as an associate. As a mark of respect for his character and appreciation of his services, the Board of Directors order these sentiments entered upon its records and a copy thereof transmitted to his wife.

PRESS NOTICES

PRESS NOTICES

From *City Club Bulletin*

Robert D. Jenks, who died on the twenty-second of January, 1917, was not only one of the charter members of the City Club of Philadelphia, but was one of the first five men who conceived the idea of such a club for Philadelphia and made the preliminary arrangements for its formation.

Not quite forty-two years of age, he filled a larger place in the community than most men acquire. Although he had a large practice of an unusually engrossing character, he gave freely of his time and strength to civic work. He was especially interested in civil service reform, and served in important positions both in the State and National Civil Service Reform Associations. He was a member of the Committee of Seventy and was always ready to assist a good cause, not only in conspicuous service, where it is easy to find volunteers, but in modest and unassuming work, necessary to be done, but which good citizens often shirk. By his own personal efforts, with the aid of one or two other men, he succeeded in winning to the cause of reform so large a number of the voters in his home district that at times it was actually carried for the cause of good government whereas the vote of the neighboring divisions was overwhelmingly the other way.

In his death the City Club and the City of Philadelphia have suffered a loss which will be severely felt.

From *The Evening Bulletin*, January 23, 1917

Robert Darrah Jenks, a member of the Philadelphia Bar, who was widely known as an authority on railroad

rate and interstate commerce law, died last night of pneumonia, in his home, 1704 Rittenhouse Street. Mr. Jenks had worked very hard as counsel for the Commercial Exchange of Philadelphia, and other local bodies in an attempt to abolish freight rate differentials in favor of New York City, and this is said to have lowered his power to resist the disease. He was forty-two years old.

He was attending daily hearings before the Interstate Commerce Commission in New York City. He returned home ill one week ago this afternoon, and had grown steadily worse since.

Mr. Jenks' father was Dr. William F. Jenks, a distinguished Philadelphia physician. His mother was Helen C. Towne, daughter of John H. Towne, who established the Towne Scientific School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Robert Jenks was born in Enterprise, Florida. He prepared for college at the Penn Charter School, took his bachelor's degree at Harvard University in 1897, and graduated in law at the University of Pennsylvania in 1901.

For several years he belonged to the law firm of Brown, Biklé and Jenks. After that he was associated with Thomas Raeburn White. He wrote a Handbook of Commercial Law for Business Men, and was a frequent contributor to legal magazines on interstate commerce law.

In June, 1914, Mr. Jenks married Maud M. Lowrey, daughter of Mrs. Dwight M. Lowrey. He is survived by her, by his mother, Mrs. William F. Jenks, of 920 Clinton St., and by a brother Dr. Horace H. Jenks, of Wayne. He was a Unitarian and belonged to the University and Merion Cricket clubs, to the Harvard clubs of this city and New York, and to the Cosmos Club in Washington.

Throughout his life Mr. Jenks had taken an active interest in public affairs, though he never engaged in politics. He was a Republican. He formerly belonged to

the Committee of Seventy and was secretary of the Civil Service Reform Association of Pennsylvania. At the time of his death he belonged to the executive committee and various sub-committees of this organization and was on the council of the National Civil Service Reform League and chairman of its committee on congressional and executive action.

From *The Evening Ledger*, January 23, 1917

Robert Darrah Jenks, prominent lawyer and clubman, died late last night of pneumonia at his home, 1704 Rittenhouse Street.

The death of Mr. Jenks, who was only forty-two years old, is thought to have been caused by overwork in connection with the freight rate hearings. He represented the Commercial Exchange and other organizations of this city, and had been going to New York every day. A few days ago he complained of being ill; soon pneumonia developed and death resulted.

Mr. Jenks was a son of the late Dr. William F. Jenks and Helen C. Towne. His grandfather, John H. Towne, was the founder of the Towne Scientific School.

He was a graduate of Penn Charter, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. He received his arts degree at Harvard and his bachelor of laws degree at Pennsylvania. He was recognized as an authority on interstate commerce laws and had written extensively on business law. He was associated in the practice of law with Thomas Raeburn White in the West End Trust Building. He was largely interested in public affairs, and served with the Committee of Seventy. Much of his time was given freely to civil service reform and he served in office for several of the civil service reform bodies.

Mr. Jenks belonged to the University, Merion Cricket, Cosmos, of Washington, and Harvard clubs.

There survive him Mrs. Jenks, also his mother, who lives at 920 Clinton Street, and a brother, Dr. Horace H. Jenks, of Wayne.

From *The Philadelphia Record*, January 24, 1917

An attack of pneumonia caused the death Monday night at his home, 1704 Rittenhouse Street, of Robert D. Jenks, well-known attorney and famous as an expert on railroad rates and interstate commerce law. He was forty-two years old and had been sick only a week, having been busy up to that time before the Interstate Commerce Commission as counsel for local commercial organizations.

Mr. Jenks was born in Florida, was educated in Penn Charter School, graduated from Harvard in 1897 and the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1901. He was a member of the law firm of Brown, Biklé and Jenks for a time, but had recently been associated with T. Raeburn White, and did considerable writing on legal subjects. He was also active in civil service reform circles. His widow survives him. Mr. Jenks belonged to several clubs in this city, New York and Washington.

From *The Press*, January 24, 1917

After a short siege of pneumonia, following strenuous work as counsel for the Commercial Exchange, Robert D. Jenks, a prominent attorney, died late Monday night at his home, 1704 Rittenhouse Street. He was taken ill a week ago after returning from New York where he attended daily hearings before the Interstate Commerce Commission which was considering the abolition of freight rate differentials in favor of New York City.

Mr. Jenks was forty-two years old. He was the son of Dr. William F. Jenks, a distinguished Philadelphia physician. His mother was Helen C. Towne, daughter of John

H. Towne, founder of the Towne Scientific School, University of Pennsylvania.

After his graduation from Harvard University in 1897, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1901, Mr. Jenks became a member of the law firm of Brown, Biklé and Jenks. Later he was associated with Thomas Raeburn White. He formerly belonged to the Committee of Seventy and was secretary of the Civil Service Reform Association of Pennsylvania. In June, 1914, Mr. Jenks married Maud M. Lowrey, daughter of Dwight M. Lowrey. He is survived by her, by his mother, Mrs. William F. Jenks, of 920 Clinton Street, and by a brother, Dr. Horace H. Jenks, of Wayne.

From *The North American*, January 24, 1917

After a short illness with pneumonia, Robert D. Jenks, a well-known lawyer, died Monday night at his home, 1704 Rittenhouse Street. Mr. Jenks, who was an authority on railroad rates and interstate commerce law, represented the Commercial Exchange and other Philadelphia organizations in recent rate hearings before the Interstate Commerce Commission in New York. He contracted a cold at one of these hearings.

Mr. Jenks was a son of Dr. William F. Jenks, a distinguished Philadelphia physician. His mother was Helen C. Towne, daughter of John H. Towne, who established the Towne Scientific School at the University of Pennsylvania. He was forty-two years old, and is survived by a widow and his mother.

Editorial from *The Public Ledger*, January 24, 1917

Robert Darrah Jenks devoted his comparatively brief term on earth to the common good. His first aim was to serve. He never spared himself when it was a question

of duty. The purification of political life was a cause to which he gave himself with the zeal of a crusader and the clear vision of a rational and well-balanced reformer.

Letter to *The Public Ledger*, January 27, 1917.

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

SIR—To those of us who have some opportunity to appraise the value of the many services rendered by Robert D. Jenks in City and State, there is something peculiarly heartrending in his taking off at an age when he was naturally coming into his fullest power and just at a time when both the municipality and the Commonwealth need real men as perhaps never before.

No one will question that Mr. Jenks knew more about the theory and practice of civil service reform than any other man in Pennsylvania. He bore able testimony to his faith in the principle during the days when it was not as generally accepted as it is today. He was the leading draftsman of the Philadelphia Civil Service Act, and has been foremost among its stanch, competent, and forward-looking supporters since its adoption. Mr. Jenks was frequently called in consultation by the Federal civil service officials.

Latterly Mr. Jenks has won distinction in an entirely different field—that of railroad-rate litigation. While his interest in this subject was at the beginning largely professional, he devoted himself so assiduously to its study as to make him an authority. He was associated as counsel with several of the most important eastern rate cases. One of the weakest places in our present system of regulating public utilities is the dearth of experts interested on the side of the public to cope with the experts always to be found on the corporation side and versed in all the technical details affecting rates and service. With the keenest possible attachment to the

public interest, ability and familiarity with the numerous factors affecting steam railroad rates, Mr. Jenks had become a distinct public asset in this field.

He was innately modest and almost forbade any recognition of the services he was rendering to public causes. Just here in the quality of his disinterested service to the community, it seems to me, lies the lesson of his life. He was of that invaluable type of citizens who, when it comes to working for city and State, place no limit on the amount of service they are willing to render. If the ideal of the "great community" is ever realized in Pennsylvania it will be built out of the lives of such men as Robert D. Jenks.

MORRIS LLEWELLYN COOKE.

De Land, Fla., January 27, 1917.

From *The Legal Intelligencer*, January 26, 1917.

The sudden death of Mr. Jenks in the forty-second year of his age came as a shock to his many friends.

Mr. Jenks was the son of the late Dr. William F. Jenks, of this city, and Helen C. Jenks, who is the daughter of John H. Towne, the founder of the Towne Scientific School at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his early education at Penn Charter, from which he went to Harvard, graduating with the degree B. A.; he then read law at the University of Pennsylvania and was admitted to the Bar in 1901. He had a literary turn and wrote a very good book entitled "A Handbook of Commercial Law for Business Men," and contributed in subsequent years a number of excellent articles upon Interstate Commerce Law to the legal magazines. In the earlier years of his professional career he was associated with John Douglass Brown, Esq., and Henry Wolf Biklé, Esq., and more recently with Thomas Raeburn White, Esq. Of late years his practice has been largely before

the Interstate Commerce Commission, a branch of the law to which he studiously applied himself, and in which at the time of his death he was attaining wide recognition as an authority. He had an enviable reputation both with the Commission and his brethren of the Bar who practiced before it as a man of ability and character, who was absolutely fair in his conduct of his cause both to the court and his opponent.

In politics he was an Independent Republican, and was a member of the Committee of Seventy; he had been Secretary of the Civil Service Reform Association of Pennsylvania and a member of the Council of the National Civil Service Reform League. He gave his time and valuable professional services without stint to the Association and showed in this and other ways a high degree of public spirit.

Mr. Jenks was a man of convictions, energy and moral courage and capable of unselfish devotion to what he conceived to be the right. The death of such a man in his prime is a loss both to the Bar and the community, and will be felt as a profound personal grief by a wide circle of friends.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

This book is under no circumstances to be taken from the Building